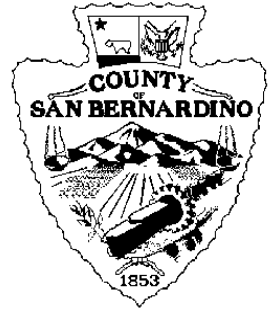


# NEWS

From the Office of

## Bill Postmus

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### **SUPERVISORS APPROVE HESPERIA LIBRARY LEASE, PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT TODAY'S BOARD MEETING**

SAN BERNARDINO — The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved a lease for a new library in Hesperia, a plan to hire nine additional firefighters, a proposal to spend \$1.2 million on Taser weapons for Sheriff's deputies, and a \$1.5 million contract to pave Newberry Road in Newberry Springs.

#### ***Hesperia Library***

Supervisors today approved a lease with the City of Hesperia for a new county library. The city is preparing to unveil a new 20,000 square foot library at 9650 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Hesperia. The new library is scheduled to open October 14. The library was made possible through aggressive fundraising efforts made by the city and assisted by a California State Library Grant and a \$200,000 allocation made by First District Supervisor Bill Postmus.

"This new facility will provide significant enhancements in services and will have considerably more seating and shelving capacity," said Supervisor Postmus. "In addition, individual study rooms, a community room, a computer lab, and more than 50 computers will be available at the new location."

#### ***Nine New Firefighters***

Supervisors approved a proposal to establish nine new firefighter positions in the County Fire Department. The positions include three engineers and six firefighter/paramedics who will serve the community of Silver Lakes.

Local residents recently approved an additional fire assessment to assist in bringing extra coverage to the area. Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus said the additional firefighters are important to the safety of residents living on the outskirts of the Victor Valley.

#### ***Tasers for Deputies***

In a separate item considered by the Board, supervisors authorized \$1.2 million for the purchase of 1,117 electronic taser guns to be used by San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies throughout the county. The Sheriff's Department requested funding to expand its taser deployment to every station in the county, both in the unincorporated areas and at contract cities, as well as to deputies serving in county courts and jails. The anticipated date of taser implementation is November 2006.

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Supervisor Postmus said he is looking forward to providing deputies with this new crime-fighting tool. "This will add one more tool to the arsenals our deputies use to protect county residents. It's not always appropriate to use conventional firearms. Tasers will offer one more option for dealing with threatening situations."

***Newberry Road***

Also on today's agenda was a \$1.5 million contract to repave Newberry Road in Newberry Springs. Newberry Road is the major north-south street providing community access for residents, schools and a community center. The project will repave 4.6 miles of the road between National Trails Highway and Valley Center Drive.